Prescription for a Healthier You

"Walk and Talk" Toolkit



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Introduction

The primary responsibilities of any Health Coach (HC) and Community Health Worker (CHW) are to build trusting relationships with clients and to connect those clients to care, eliminating barriers and advocating for systemic changes along the way.

As a HC and/or CHW you have the ability to schedule an in person "meet and engage" with clients by having a 20 minute walk and talk session to provide support and guidance on living a healthier lifestyle. This could serve as your first health coaching session while establishing a personal connection.

The materials in this toolkit aim to:

- Provide information and resources for HC and CHW's to assist community members in finding healthier food options in grocery stores or pantries.
- Support the HC and CHW in educating on the importance of physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight.
- Furnish materials on the importance of medication adherence and limiting alcohol and tobacco use.
- Motivate your participants to start their own walking group. The long-term goal of this program is to use the health coaching sessions as a jumping-off point for participants to become connected and continue a walking group of their own...the clients are already there! Connecting health coaching clients and walking in small groups can motivate and inspire each other to stick with it, increasing long-term physical outcomes.

Walking 101

There are many ways to be active, but walking is one of the easiest! For most people, it is safe, easy to stick with, and low- or no-cost. It does not require any special skills or equipment. Just a good pair of supportive tennis shoes. For such a simple activity, it has so many benefits.

According to the American Heart Association, for every hour of brisk walking, life expectancy can increase by two hours. Research has shown that walking at least 150 minutes a week can help reduce the risk of diseases like heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer; improve blood pressure, blood sugar and blood cholesterol levels; increase energy and stamina; improve mental and emotional well-being; boost bone strength and reduce the risk of osteoporosis; and prevent weight gain.

If 150 minutes sounds like a lot, remember that **even short 10-minute activity sessions can add up** over the week to reach this goal. It is easy to fit in 10 minutes of walking a few times a day.

How to prepare for your group walk

Walking in a small group gives off positive energy and promotes good feelings. One of the main benefits of group walking is having other people around for accountability, while at the same time making the experience more enjoyable. Other benefits include motivation, safety and socialization. Group walking provides social support, can reduce time spent on an electronic devices, and increase exposure to the outdoors and fresh air when weather permits.

The most important step for participants of a walking program is the first one—making the commitment to walk and signing up through your HC or CHW. Once a client has committed to walking, part of your job is to provide motivation and support to help them stick with it.

- **Recruit members.** To start a walking group, start by spreading the word. Talk up your walking group among your health coaching clients, family members, friends and neighbors.
- Walk it off. Before scheduling your walk, decide on a route and map it out. Determine a safe, easy and central route and start with a distance you know for people of all fitness levels.
- **Be consistent**. Determine the frequency of your walks. Set a date and time.
- **Get organized.** Once you've recruited members for your walking group, hold a kickoff meeting. Collect email addresses, phone numbers and other contact details. Discuss details including attire and cancellation notification.
- Maintain momentum. The camaraderie you experience in a walking group and the shared fitness success can help you walk your way to better health.

Evaluating your program

All programs need to be evaluated to reflect effectiveness and show direction for program sustainability in the future. Evaluation is a key component of your program and should be conducted before, during, and after program implementation. You can use evaluation data to plan community-specific programs, to assess the effectiveness of the implemented program in achieving its objectives, and to modify current activities where necessary for program improvement.

Evaluation should be considered early in the planning process. Evaluation can be as simple as recording the number of participants who take part in a program or the number of minutes or hours walked per week. Evaluation can also include a survey where feedback is provided about your program.

At the conclusion of this toolkit on page 13, is an example of an evaluation form that can be used at the conclusion of your program.

Long-term goals

Encourage members to **set goals** for themselves. Setting simple goals is a great way to keep your walking group motivated and on track. You and your group members should:

- Take some time to think. Encourage yourself and other group members to think about short-term and long-term goals, taking into consideration time availability and health concerns.
- Write down goals. Goals can be as simple as attending every walking meet-up or something bigger, like walking a 5k charity event in a few months. Tell friends and family. Having support from those important to you will make sticking to your goals easier, and more rewarding.
- Track progress. Group members should write down when they walked, how long, and the number of steps displayed on their pedometer (if they have one). This will bring their progress to life and help determine what's working for them and what isn't and make adjustments to reach their goals.

Toolkit Contents

This toolkit provides information and resources for your support and reference as you educate community members in Healthy Eating, Physical Activity, Stress and Sleep, Lifestyle Change, Medication Adherence, and Alcohol and Tobacco Use.

The toolkit is organized into the following 6 sections using color-coded tabs:

Healthy Eating	Lifestyle Change
Physical Activity	Medication Adherence
Stress and Sleep	Alcohol and Tobacco Use



Choose Healthy Here originated as a Nebraska-based Healthy Food Retail program that supports rural communities needing to increase access to healthy foods by providing a framework for individuals to find, afford, choose, and use healthy foods. The program has since expanded into both cafeteria and vending environments.

What to review:

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates 52.5 million people in the U.S. have limited access to a supermarket. Corner stores, gas stations, or convenience stores may be nearby, but these options often lack fresh fruits, vegetables, and/or low-fat snack options. Residents are left with high-priced and high-processed foods; a situation that contributes to the obesity epidemic and other health disparities.
- Choose Healthy Here provides healthy environment education for both store owners and consumers. The program provides community outreach guidance, marketing signage, and promotion.
- The key to achieving and maintaining a healthy weight isn't about shortterm dietary changes.
 It's about a lifestyle that includes healthy eating, regular physical activity, and balancing the number of calories you consume with the number of calories your body uses.
- Overweight and obesity are increasingly common conditions in the United States. Obesity is a serious medical condition that can cause complications such as metabolic syndrome, high blood pressure, atherosclerosis, heart disease, diabetes, high blood cholesterol, cancers and sleep disorders.
- The DASH eating plan follows heart healthy guidelines to limit saturated fat and cholesterol. It focuses on increasing intake of foods rich in nutrients that are expected to lower blood pressure, mainly minerals (like potassium, calcium, and magnesium), protein, and fiber. It includes nutrient-rich foods so that is meets other nutrient requirements as recommended by the Institute of Medicine.



MyPlate is the current nutrition guide published by the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, a food circle (i.e. a pie chart) depicting a place setting with a plate and glass divided into five food groups. MyPlate offers ideas and tips to help you create a healthier eating style that meets your individual needs and improves your health.



- Physical activity is anything that gets your body moving. It is important to be physically active every day.
- You should get 150 minutes of activity each week AND light muscle strengthening activities on at least 2 days a week.
- Regular physical activity helps improve your overall health and fitness and reduces your risk of developing type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome.
- Being physically active lowers your risk for two types of cancer: colon and breast.
- Regular physical activity can help keep your thinking, learning, and judgment skills sharp as you age. It can also reduce your risk of depression and may help you sleep better.



- A third of US adults report that they usually get less than the recommended amount of sleep. Not getting enough sleep is linked with many chronic diseases and conditions—such as diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and depression—that threaten our nation's health.
- Sleep deprivation can cause forgetfulness, exhaustion, and fatigue, to name a few. When a person is exhausted and fatigued it causes pessimism, sadness, stress, and anger, none of which are appreciated by other people. ... In addition, lack of sleep affects the brains ability to solve problems.
- The healthy amount of sleep for the average adult is around seven to eight hours each night.
- Stress is a reaction to a situation where a person feels threatened or anxious. Stress can be positive (e.g., preparing for a wedding) or negative (e.g., dealing with a natural disaster). The symptoms may be physical or emotional.
- Ongoing, chronic stress can cause or exacerbate many serious health problems, including: Mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and personality.



- Smart Moves is a lifestyle change program of the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP), a partnership of public and private organizations working to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes, proven to help people with prediabetes make lasting and healthy changes and cut their risk of type 2 diabetes.
- Partners work to make it easier for people with prediabetes to participate in evidence-based, affordable and high-quality lifestyle change programs to reduce their risk of type 2 diabetes and improve their overall health. A Centers for Disease Controlrecognized lifestyle change program is a structured program developed specifically to prevent type 2 diabetes. It is designed for people who have prediabetes or are at risk for type 2 diabetes, but who do not already have diabetes.
- Participants meet with trained lifestyle coaches in a small group setting with other individuals making similar life changes to prevent diabetes. Sessions are held weekly for 16 weeks then once a month for 6 months.



- Be an active partner in your care: ask your health care team questions about your condition so that you understand why your medication is needed; and work with your health care team to devise a medication plan that fits your life.
- Set a routine so that you can remember to take your medications at the same time every day; perhaps around a daily routine activity like eating breakfast or brushing your teeth. If you need an extra nudge, set an alarm or sign up for a reminder service through your pharmacy or online.
- Keep your medications in their original containers so that you can read the label carefully. This will help you take and store your medications properly.
- Report side effects from your medications and any other concerns you may have about your medications to your doctor immediately.
- Do not stop taking any of your medications without talking to your doctor first, even if you start feeling better and do not believe that a/several medication(s) is/are necessary.



- Tobacco products are the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.
- Tobacco products harm nearly every organ of the body, cause many diseases, and reduces the health of smokers in general.
- Smoking and drinking are two lifestyle habits that get a lot of negative criticism in the health industry, and for good reason.
 They both cause multiple complications with the body that can range from mild to life-threatening.
- The lungs are pliable organs that need to be elastic and flexible to breathe properly. Smoking causes the lungs to become damaged and it compromises their elasticity.
 This in turn leads to a condition called emphysema where breathing becomes labored, even with minimal exertion.
- When you drink excessively and use tobacco products, you increase your chances of getting high blood pressure. This is defined as a reading of 140/90 mmHg or above. If left untreated, high blood pressure can cause congestive heart failure, heart attack, stroke, kidney damage and vision loss, notes the American Heart Association.
- The liver is a major organ in the body that produces bile which breaks down fat; the liver also helps purify the blood. Heavy drinking over the course of time can cause liver damage. In the worst of cases, a condition known as cirrhosis can take place. Cirrhosis is a condition in which the liver slowly deteriorates and malfunctions due to chronic injury.

Resources

American Heart Institute www.heart.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov

Department of Health and Human Services www.dhhs.ne.gov

Home Health Quality Improvement www.homehealthquality.org

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute www.nhlbi.nih.gov

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism www.niaaa.nih.gov

Nebraska Tobacco Quit Line www.quitnow.ne.gov

United Healthcare www.uhc.com

United States Department of Agriculture www.usda.gov

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension www.unl.edu

USDA Choose My Plate www.choosemyplate.gov

"Walk & Talk" Survey Form

We appreciate your help. Please mark your response below by checking the circle.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The goal of the walking group was clearly defined.	0	0	0	0	0
Participation and being more active was strongly encouraged.	0	0	0	0	0
Increasing my physical activity was important to me.	0	0	0	0	O
The topics covered by my HC or CHW in our walks related to me.	0	0	0	0	O
The content was put together well and easy to follow during our walks.	0	0	0	0	O
The materials handed out were helpful.	O	0	0	0	C
The HC or CHW was knowledgeable about the topics discussed.	O	0	0	0	O
The HC or CHW came well prepared each time.	0	0	0	0	O
The time spent for the walking group was sufficient.	0	0	0	0	O
I plan to start a walking group of my own or continue in this one.	0	0	•	0	0

Comments:			

HEALTH TRACKER

month/year: _____

		F00	D		WATER	ACTIVITY	TIME	DISTANCE
MON	B L D S				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
TUES	B L D S				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
WED	B L D S				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
THURS	B L D S				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
FRI	B L D S				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
SAT	B L D S				• • • • • • •			
SUN	B L D S				.			
SLEEP	M	Т	W	TH	F	SAT	SUN	WEIGHT
GOALS: PROGRESS & ROADBLOCKS:								
NOTES								

Reference Material



www.partnersnhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/CHH_info_flyer.pdf



https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/snap /resourcefinder/GreatPlate_English Vietnamese.pdf



https://choosemyplateprod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/printable materials/DGTipsheet7BuildaHealthyMeal_0.pdf



https://food.unl.edu/NEP/NEP%2 ODocuments/Healthy-shoppinglist.pdf



https://choosemyplateprod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/misc /dietaryguidelines/MyPlateMyWins.pdf



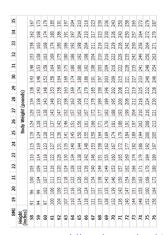
https://www.uhc.com/content/dam/uhcdo tcom/en/HealthAndWellness/Infographics/ HealthyWeightInfo.png



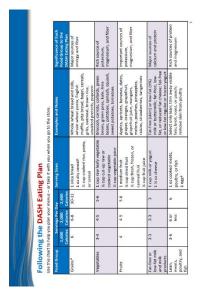
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https://choosemyplateprod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/ misc/dietaryguidelines/MyPlateMyWins. pdf



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http://www.homehealthquality.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?guid =618717b7-c24e-4926-bbd7-71dfdb77ae12



https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/ educational/wecan/downloads/ur whateat.pdf



https://health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2015/resources/DGA_Healthy-Eating-Pattern.pdf



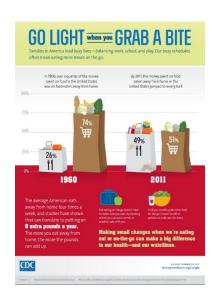
http://www.homehealthquality.org/CM SWebParts/CustomWebParts/Resources /ResourceGetFile.aspx?id=112



http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heartpublic/@wcm/@hcm/documents/downloadable/ e/ucm_300467.pdf



https://health.gov/dietaryguidelines/ 2015/resources/DGA_Healthy-Eating-Pattern.pdf



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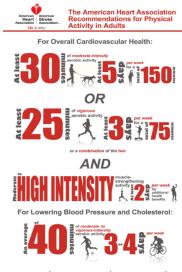


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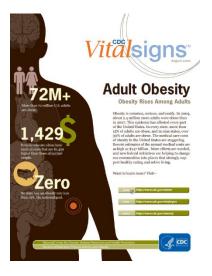
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www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/downloads/ healthy-strong-america.pdf



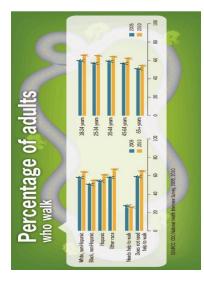
www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/walking/ infographic.html



www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/pdf/ 2010-08-vitalsigns.pdf



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www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/walking/ infographic.html



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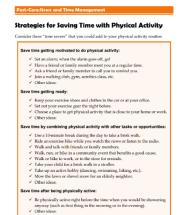
https://choosemyplateprod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/tentips/ DGTipsheet40PhysicalActivity.pdf



There is set a specific recommendation for the number of aircules young children should be active each day. Children ages 2.6 years should play actively several times each day. Their activity may happen in developmentally agreeped, but and offer vertex. activities for young children should be developmentally agreeped, but, and offer vertex.

Physical activity is generally safe for everyone. The health benefits you gain from being active are far greater than the chances of getting hurt. Here are some things you can do to stay safe while you are active:

https://www.choosemyplate.gov/physicalactivity-amount



www.cdc.gov/diabetes/prevention/pdf/ posthandout_session12.pdf



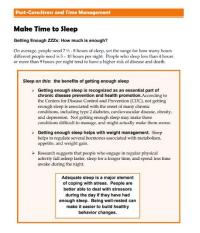
https://www.uhc.com/content/dam/uhcdotcom/ en/HealthAndWellness/PDF/Keeping_you_from_e xercising.pdf



https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/ downloads/PA_Fact_Sheet_Adults.pdf



https://healthyforgood.heart.org/bewell/infographics/how-to-sleep-betterinfographic



www.cdc.gov/diabetes/prevention/
pdf/posthandout_session12.pdf



https://healthyforgood.heart.org/ be-well/infographics/fightstress-with-healthy-habitsinfographic



https://www.cdc.gov/chronic disease/pdf/sleep-H.pdf



https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/public/ sleep/healthysleepfs.pdf



you lack sleep, you are more likely to make bad decisions and take more roke. This can result in lower performance on the job or in school and a greater risk for a car crash.

Mood: Steep affects mored, Insufficient sleep can make

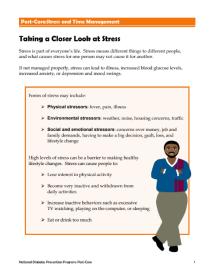
Mood: Sleep affects mood. Insufficient sleep can make you irritable and is linked to pour behavior and trouble with relationships, especially among children and teeus. People who chronically lack sleep are also more likely to become depressed. he addition, during shep, your body products valuable hormoness. Deep deep neiggers more release of growth hormones, which fach growth in claideren and become muscle meas and the regarie of cells and tissues in children and adults. Another type of hormone that increase during deep helps the immune system fight various infections. This might explain why a good night's deep helps keep room growth go also helps you recover when you do get take.

Hormones released during sleep also control the body's use of energy. Studies find that the less people sleep, the more likely they are to be overweight or obese, to develop diabetes, and to prefer esting foods that are likely in calculus and carbodynesses.

https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/public/sleep/healthysleepfs.pdf



www.cdc.gov/sleep/pdf/states508/FS_ShortSleepByState_NE_508tagged.pdf



www.cdc.gov/diabetes/prevention/pdf/posthandout_session12.pdf



https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications /stress/5thingsshldknowaboutstress-508-03132017_142898.pdf



 $\frac{www.cdc.gov/violence prevention/pdf/}{Coping with Stress.pdf}$

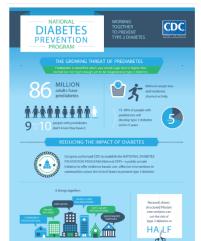


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American Heart Association

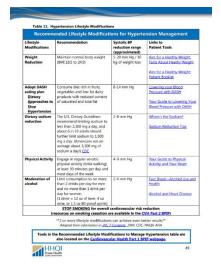


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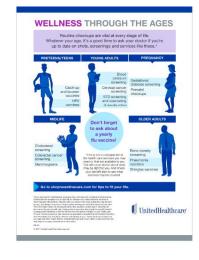


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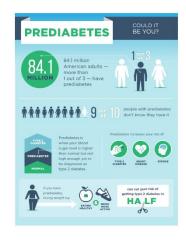
How Can I Make My Lifestyle Healthier?



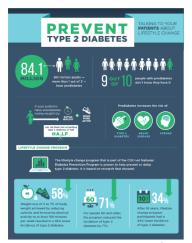
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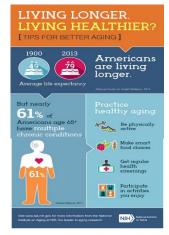
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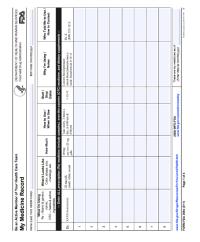
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https://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/By Audience/ForWomen/ucm336355.html



https://www.stroke.org/sites/default/files/resources/NSA_Med_Adherence_brochure.pdf



https://www.fda.gov/downloads/AboutFDA/Reports ManualsForms/Forms/UCM095018.pdf



https://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heartpublic/@wcm/@hcm/documents/downloadable /ucm_300450.pdf



https://www.fda.gov/downloads/For Consumers/ByAudience/ForWomen/F reePublications/UCM393837.pdf





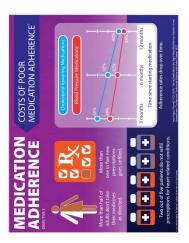
HERENCE



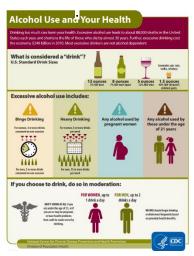
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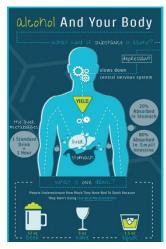
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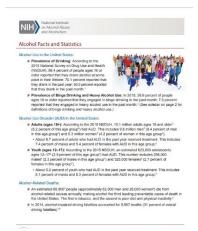
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http://www.rehabcenter.net/wpcontent/uploads/2015/01/Alcohol -Your-Body-Infographic.pdf



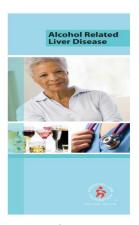
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https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Alcohol Facts&Stats/AlcoholFacts&Stats.pdf



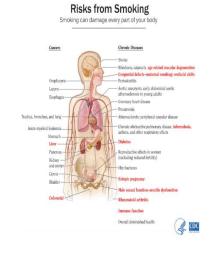
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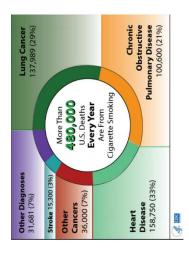
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https://www.cdc.gov/media/images/releases/2015 https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/infographics /p1015-excessive-alcohol.pdf



/health-effects/pdfs/heinfographic1.pdf?s_cid=bb-osh-effectsgraphic-005



https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/infographics/health-effects/pdfs/pie-chart-2017.pdf?s_cid=bb-osh-effects-graphic-001



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https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/infographics/policy/pdfs/going-smokefree-matters-home-infographic.pdf



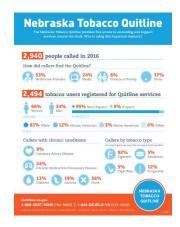
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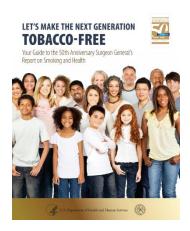
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